

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

108th Congress Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez, Chair

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IMPACT OF BUSH BUDGET ON HISPANIC FAMILIES **REPORT RELEASED**

WASHINGTON D. C. - Today, Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) joined House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and House Democratic Caucus Chair Bob Menendez in releasing "The Impact of the Bush Budget on Hispanic Families" report. This report outlined in detail the effect that the President's budget will have on Hispanics in the areas of education, economic opportunity and access to health care.

"As we can see from this report and other analysis from the advocacy community, the Bush budget does not contain any substance to back up Bush's claim of being a friend of the Hispanic community," Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez, Chair of the CHC said. "In every critical area - education, economic recovery, and healthcare - the President's budget is severely lacking. The President is obviously out of tune with the Hispanic family's day-to-day needs. If he was sincere in his efforts to reach out to our community, he would allocate funding to key programs, rather than eliminate them."

President Bush presented his budget to Congress on Monday, February 2. Essentially, the President's budget serves as an outline for his priorities during the coming year and is a catalyst in moving domestic and international issues through the legislative process.

"Once again, the president has shown that tax breaks trump fiscal responsibility, leaving critical government programs that are the hallmark of American idealism to fend for themselves," Representative Xavier Becerra, a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, said. "At a cost of \$2.4 trillion, yet still containing a projected \$500 billion deficit, this budget not only fails to deliver on the government's promise to protect its citizens, but also hurts the pocketbooks of Americans for generations to come."

Highlights of "The Impact of the Bush Budget on Hispanic Families" report are:

- Does nothing to promote job creation, employment training or new vocational opportunities for the 1.4 million Hispanic unemployed

- Eliminates funding for the nation's only federally funded dropout prevention program; freezes bilingual education for the third year in a row, despite increased demand; provides only 3 percent in increased funding for Head Start, leaving this critical program direly underfunded.
- Transforms a large portion of Medicaid from an entitlement program to a block grant, leaving states to choose between eliminating program participants or program benefits.
- Slices funding for the Small Business Administration (SBA). There are currently 1 million Hispanic-owned small businesses in America. The SBA provides valuable start-up loan and Microloans to Hispanic entrepreneurs.

To obtain a copy of the report, click on the following link:

<http://rodriguez.house.gov/chc/BushFY05Hispanics.pdf>

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) is comprised of 20 members of Congress of Hispanic descent. Since 1976 the CHC has been addressing the needs of the Hispanic community in all areas of American life. For more information on the CHC call (202) 225-2410.